

# Adult Education Classes

## Spring 2026



We are a *multigenerational, social justice oriented* community of joyful, imperfect people who *welcome absolutely everybody* with hospitality, openness and acceptance.

**Montclair Presbyterian Church**  
**5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland, CA 94611**  
**510-339-1131**  
**[mpc-family@mpcfamily.org](mailto:mpc-family@mpcfamily.org)**

# Adult Education Classes Spring 2026

Classes will be conducted in person or on Zoom. Please use the link below to register. A few days prior to each class you will receive an email reminder.

[Go to the Registration Form](#)

If you have a question/problem with online registration, contact Allen at [allenmpc2020@gmail.com](mailto:allenmpc2020@gmail.com)

## Indigenous Peoples Discussion – Waking Our Indigenous Souls

**Art Paull and  
Melinda Maxwell-Smith**

Art Paull and Melinda Maxwell Smith of the Indigenous Action Group at MPC will lead a discussion of the groundbreaking article, [Waking Our Indigenous Souls](#) by Rob Brezсны This article digs deep into indigenous culture to identify major spiritual themes and also ways in which we, who ourselves derive from early native people, can reconnect with some of these ideas.

Please set aside time to read the article before you attend. Here is the link: [Waking Our Indigenous Souls](#)

**Dates:** Sunday, February 15

**Time and Place:** 11:30am-12:45pm, Thornhill Room

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## Drinks and Doubts

**Katie Kilby**

“Drinks and Doubts” is back again! With Katie Kilby facilitating the discussion, we will exchange views, beliefs, and doubts in response to broad theological questions, while sharing snacks and libations in a relaxed, informal setting.



The meetings will be held at the home of Sloan White.

**Note: Registration is required, as space is limited.**

We will send Sloan’s address to registered participants.

**Dates:** Tuesdays, Feb. 17, March 24, April 21

**Time and Place:** 7:00 pm, Sloan’s home

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**Tara Flanagan**

**Conversation with Alameda County  
District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson**

Tara Flanagan will facilitate a conversation with Alameda County District Attorney, Ursula Jones Dickson.



We will learn about the history, mission and processing procedures of the District Attorney's office.

**Dates:** Sunday, Feb. 22

**Time and Place:** 11:30 am, Thornhill Room

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**Public Role of Religion in Today's Society**

**Heidi Hadsell**



There will be two sessions of this course. The first session will be a discussion of the central challenges that are before us as we strive to do our part in the public arena to affirm the democratic principles of the US government and its people, seen especially in the light of central ethical affirmations of our Reformed Tradition, and more broadly, wider Christian moral teachings.

The second session will focus on what others are doing in the public arena as well as what we are doing or might be able to do, guided by the values of our tradition, and working with others, for the benefit of our wider communities, as well as ourselves.

Heidi's field of study is Christian Social Ethics. She will not lecture - she will lead the discussion providing information and her own thoughts, but she intends this to be a fulsome discussion among all of us who gather.

Heidi has a PhD in Social Ethics from USC. She taught Ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary, in Chicago. She then was director of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches, Bossey, Switzerland. Following that until retirement Heidi was President of Hartford Seminary, Connecticut, and professor of Social Ethics there. Heidi is currently on the Board of Trustees of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

**Dates:** Sundays, March 15 and 22

**Time and Place:** 11:30 am, Thornhill Room

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## Planning Your Spiritual and Financial Legacy

**Ben Daniel  
and Rebecca Conradi**

Have you lost loved ones before they were able to share their deepest beliefs and spiritual values with those who now long to hear about them? Or, did your loved ones not get around to fully planning how their treasures would be shared with those they loved? Would you have benefitted from being informed about your loved one's values and wishes when handling his or her estate?



Is that how you want your story to end? At whatever place you are in life's journey, planning a legacy will benefit your family, friends and community, and give you profound satisfaction in articulating the values and stories that will be shared after you pass on.

Most of us do not intend to forgo leaving behind a legacy, but many of us fail to plan our spiritual and financial legacy. This two-part class will offer a meaningful way to identify and plan your legacy. First, we will explore and help you put in words what your time on earth has meant to you and the most important values you want to pass on. Secondly, we will explore how, with your spiritual legacy in mind, you want to leave financial bequests to loved ones and organizations.

The first class, on April 19, will be led by Ben Daniel, Senior Pastor at MPC. Ben will guide us through the process of setting down your spiritual values through thoughtful and loving messages left to the world, your family and your friends. The treasures you leave behind in this process will not be financial; they will come from your heart.

The second class, on April 26, will be led by Wills and Trusts Attorney Rebecca Conradi. Rebecca will present helpful information on wills, trusts and other vehicles that create an effective estate. However much you have accumulated, your family and friends will be grateful if it is left in an orderly fashion. There will also be information available on financial products and methods to leave a financial estate, such as specific gifts, beneficiary designations, annuities, appreciated stock and life insurance beneficiary designations.

Come ready to open your heart to this project; we guarantee that you will go away inspired, relieved, comforted and proud that you completed this task. It is also possible that you will look at your life differently, with greater self-awareness that your loved ones will appreciate. And finally, you will have gained knowledge on how to set up an effective financial legacy for your heirs.

**Dates:** Sundays, April 19 and April 26

**Time and Place:** 11:30 am, Thornhill Room

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**Indigenous Peoples film:**  
***Restoring the Klamath River***

**Indigenous Action Group**



MPC's Indigenous Action group will present the film *Restoring The Klamath River*. For thousands of years the Yurok native American tribe lived in close, mutual relationship with the salmon of the Klamath River in Northwest California. But in the 1900s, four dams were constructed on the river. These dams completely disrupted the annual salmon run. In the early 2000s the tribe began an effort to remove these dams, and in 2024 they succeeded. The film *Restoring the Klamath River* is the story of that heroic effort. To date this is the largest dam removal project to have happened in our country.

We will view the film and speak by Zoom with one of the leaders of that effort. This should be an inspiring event.

**Date:** Sunday, May 17

**Time and Place:** 11:30 am, Thornhill Room

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## Ongoing Classes

### Faces of God

### Sharon Noteboom



We read books to expand our understanding of our own faith tradition, as well as explore other religions and important contemporary issues. We meet most months on the first Saturday of the month from 10 - 11:30 a.m. on Zoom, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The book chosen for each month is generally published in Contact. Sometimes the schedule may change, so if you're interested in participating and would like the most up-to-date plan for an upcoming month, please contact Jean Gregory at 510-635-8838.

Sharon Noteboom is a teacher, student and longtime member of our church.

<b>Dates:</b> First Saturdays	<b>Zoom Info:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81413546027">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81413546027</a>
<b>Time:</b> 10:00 – Noon	Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 Password: 3391131 To dial in: +1 669 900 6833 enter Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 and
<b>Zoom Facilitator:</b> Eloise Gilland	Password: 3391131

### Pastor's Bible Study

### Rev. Ben Daniel

If ever you have wanted to learn more about the Bible – not just as a document used to excuse bad behavior, but as an ancient, many-layered, sometimes beautiful, sometimes-awful text made holy by centuries of the faithful who have found comfort, hope and inspiration in its pages – then the Pastor's Bible Study is for you.



Everyone is welcome!

<b>Dates:</b> Wednesdays	<b>Zoom Info:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81413546027">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81413546027</a>
<b>Time:</b> 12:00 -1:30pm.	Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 Password: 3391131 dial in: +1 669 900 6833 enter Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 and
<b>Zoom Facilitator:</b> Ben Daniel	Password: 3391131

# Spring 2026 MPC Adult Education Class Information

## How do I join a class?

Some classes will be conducted via Zoom meetings. Please use the link below to register for the classes. Prior to the start of the class, you will receive an email with instructions for how to join the Zoom meeting.

[Go to the Registration Form](#)

If you do not have access to a computer or mobile device and would like to call into the meeting to listen, call Allen Spore at 510-381-3207 for assistance. If you have a question/problem with online registration, contact Allen at [allenmpc2020@gmail.com](mailto:allenmpc2020@gmail.com).

## What About Cost?

Our classes are open to everyone. Donations benefit our work, but are not required.

## How else can I be involved with Adult Education?

You can contact the Adult Education chair, Allen Spore, at [allenspore@gmail.com](mailto:allenspore@gmail.com) for the following:

- If you'd like to join the Adult Education committee
- If you would like to lead a class, or have an idea for a class you'd like to see

**The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.**

**-- attributed to B.B.King**